such as in a translucent strength annotation overlay on each search result or a strength annotation in a corresponding progress tab. Strength refers to the relative quality of the search criteria matching for a given search result. In one embodiment, the greater number of hits in a given search result target page, the stronger the result.

[0073] FIG. 13 illustrates detailed operations of the analyzing process in an environment of the present invention. Search results are received in the receiving operation 1300. In one embodiment, the search results include the search results Web page received from the search engine. In alternative embodiments, the search results may include information processed in the preparation operation 1210 and the analysis data generated from the analysis operation 1207. A search results target page is downloaded from its resource location (e.g., the search engine) in download operation 1302. In one embodiment of the present invention, the target page is stored in the cache 1316.

[0074] An analysis operation 1304 analyzes the layout of the target page, in part to provide partitioning and reformatting information for the SmartView and detailed view modes. The layout analysis results are stored in the cache 1316 for later use. A thumbnail operation 1306 generates a thumbnail image from the target page for use in the Smart-View display. The generated thumbnail image is stored in a cache 1316 for later use. A linguistics analysis operation 1308 analyzes the text in the target page and stores the linguistics analysis results in the cache 1316, in one embodiment including positional information associated with the linguistic features, for later use. Statistical properties of the linguistic features, such as frequency of the feature occurrence in the documents or logical units of the documents, or occurrences of the feature across the documents in a given set are stored in the cache. Based on the linguistic and statistical information about content elements of the documents, an inverted index is built and stored in the cache to support further searches. The inverted index may be associated with a page and/or with individual logical sections of a page. By providing granularity in the inverted index down to the logical section level, search statistics may be created that are associated with individual logical sections of the page.

[0075] Based on the linguistics analysis operation 1308, an analysis operation 1310 uses the inverted index and calculates the search statistics (e.g., how relevant or similar is the document or document portion, e.g., a logical section, is to the user query) in preparation for annotating each target page displayed in SmartView mode. In an exemplary implementation, the linguistics analysis operation 1308 includes statistical analysis of the content elements. The search statistics, such as relevance scores of an individual page or of individual sections of the page, can be used in annotating search hits to reflect the degree of relevance of a given hit or logical section. A looping operation 1312 repeats operations 1302, 1304, 1306, 1308, and 1310 for each target page referenced in the search results Web page. Having analyzed each result target page, the waiting operation 1314 awaits user selection of one of the search results.

[0076] FIG. 14 illustrates operations for thumbnail marking and term highlighting in an embodiment of the present invention. With the analysis results of FIG. 12 stored in the cache, a user may select one of the search results or one of

the corresponding progress tabs to view a SmartView mode of the corresponding search results target page (see e.g., FIG. 6). A sending operation 1400 sends a target page selection request to the server, which receives the target page selection request in receiving operation 1402. Based on the thumbnail image, the layout analysis results, the linguistics analysis results, and the search statistics analysis results stored a cache 1406, a partition map for the SmartView display of the selected search results target page is generated with annotations by a generation operation 1404 and sent to the client. A receiving and displaying operation 1408 receives the annotated partition map and displays it on the client in SmartView mode.

[0077] From the SmartView display, the user may select a logical section for display in detailed view mode. A sending operation 1410 sends the user's logical section selection to the server, which receives the selection and extracts and processes the corresponding logical section from the target page stored in the cache 1406. In an embodiment of the present invention, the extracted logical section is reformatted for a detailed view in accordance with the client's display, as shown in FIG. 2. A highlighting operation receives hit information from index stored in the cache 1406 and highlights the hits (e.g., terms satisfying the search criteria) in a selected logical section, which is sent to the client. A receiving and displaying operation 1418 receives the detailed view of the selected logical section and displays it on the client.

[0078] A Web search and a documents search in an embodiment of the present invention employ similar processes as described in FIGS. 12, 13, and 14. Furthermore, in either search embodiment, a local or remote search engine may be employed.

[0079] It should be understood that, while an exemplary embodiment has been described with regard to a handheld devices, it is contemplated that non-handheld devices may be employed with alternative embodiments of the present invention. For example, the annotation of search results target pages and search result Web pages may be advantageously applied in smart phones, desktop computers, laptop computers, set-top boxes, Internet kiosks, and other client devices. Furthermore, many such client devices have sufficient computing resources to perform the operations of the server and/or the search engine locally.

[0080] The exemplary hardware and operating environment of FIG. 15 for implementing the invention includes a general purpose computing device in the form of a computer 20, including a processing unit 21, a system memory 22, and a system bus 23 that operatively couples various system components include the system memory to the processing unit 21. There may be only one or there may be more than one processing unit 21, such that the processor of computer 20 comprises a single central-processing unit (CPU), or a plurality of processing units, commonly referred to as a parallel processing environment. The computer 20 may be a conventional computer, a distributed computer, or any other type of computer; the invention is not so limited.

[0081] The system bus 23 may be any of several types of bus structures including a memory bus or memory controller, a peripheral bus, and a local bus using any of a variety of bus architectures. The system memory may also be referred to as simply the memory, and includes read only